

# Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious

COURSE: Spring 2026 Session 1 of 6  
Date: Tuesday, February 10·2:15 – 4:00 pm  
Location: Mackey/Zoom/Stream

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## TITLE: From Curiosity to Judgment

*Subtitle: Thinking Carefully About AI*

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## DEFINITION

- AI = software that recognizes patterns and predicts what comes next.
  - It predicts. It doesn't verify truth.
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## THREE PRINCIPLES

1. Prediction ≠ Knowledge  
AI predicts what sounds right, not what is true.
  2. Confidence ≠ Correctness  
AI sounds certain even when wrong.
  3. Delegation ≠ Abdication  
AI can help. You stay responsible.
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## STAKES FRAMEWORK

Ask yourself:

1. If I'm wrong, what happens?
  2. Would I know I was wrong?
  3. Is there a professional for this?
- **LOW STAKES:** Use freely (brainstorm, draft, summarize)
  - **MEDIUM STAKES:** Use + verify (learn concepts, check official sources)
  - **HIGH STAKES:** Consult expert (medical, legal, financial decisions)
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## KEY MODEL: CLEVELAND CLINIC

1. AI flags patterns. Doctor reviews, decides, takes responsibility.
  2. Lesson: Delegation (AI assists, human decides), not abdication.
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## HALLUCINATION



1. AI predicts "next word," not "is this real?"
  2. Result: Can invent official-sounding but fake information.
  3. Remember: Confidence  $\neq$  Correctness.
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## HOMEWORK

1. Notice one system suggesting something (GPS, email, Netflix, etc.).
  2. Ask: WHAT? WHY? IS IT RIGHT? WHO DECIDES?
  3. Share or keep private. Just notice.
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## TAKE WITH YOU

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prediction <math>\neq</math> Knowledge</li> <li>• Confidence <math>\neq</math> Correctness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check your stakes</li> <li>• Stay responsible</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>OLLI - Online Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious</b>  Live Streaming and Recording  Spring 2026  Click the class session you wish to view  <a href="#">AI Basics Livestream Link</a></p>
	<p><b>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious OLLI Course Page</b>  Alternate Tuesdays • 2:15 p.m.-4 p.m. • Mackey Auditorium/Zoom/Stream  February 10, 24 • March 10, 24 • April 14, 28 • May (12 no class)  <a href="#">Click here for the recordings and Live Stream link for this course.</a></p>